

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03089 311115Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 024804

O R 310818Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2260

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3089

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, OVIP

SUBJECT: TIME MIDEAST "NEWSTOUR" FOR BUSINESS LEADERS--
POSSIBLE ARAFAT MEETING

REF: DAMASCUS 3049

1. THIS MESSAGE UPDATES SUGGESTIONS IN REFTEL RE "NEWSTOUR"
VISIT TO SYRIA.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL REP WHO WORKING ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR
SUBJECT TOUR, LOUIS FARES, HE AND WILLIAM STEWART, TIME/
BEIRUT REVIEWED ARRANGEMENTS WITH VARIOUS SARG OFFICIALS
DEC 28 AND 29 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE REQUESTED "MOST PESSI-
MISTIC SCENARIO" AS REQUESTED BY TIME/NEW YORK ORGANIZERS.
MAIN PROBLEM OF COURSE IS SPACE (REFTEL) AND THUS FARES AND
STEWART, FARES SAYS, HAVE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE OF COMPRESSED
ONE-DAY JAN 21 SCHEDULE FOR DAMASCUS, UTILIZING AIRCRAFT TO
AND FROM BEIRUT AND BEIRUT HOTEL IF THIS PROVES NECESSARY
BECAUSE OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT. (GIVEN POSTPONEMENT BREZHNEV VISIT TO
MIDDLE EAST, WE RECOGNIZE TIME NEWSTOUR MAY RETURN TO SCHEDULE
FOR JAN 21/22 OVERNIGHT IN DAMASCUS.)

3. NEW ITEM FOR US IS FARES' COMMENT THAT TIME/BEIRUT HAS BEEN TRYING
TO ARRANGE MEETING OF GROUP WITH ARAFAT IN BEIRUT. THIS EFFORT,
PLUS GROUP'S PLANNED VISIT TO REFUGEE CAMP IN LEBANON AND CALL ON
LEBANESE PRESIDENT FRANGIEH HAS REPORTEDLY LED LATTER TO ASK IS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 03089 311115Z

GROUP COMING TO LEBANON TO SEE LEBANESE OR PALESTINIANS? TO DEAL WITH

THIS OBJECTIVE (WHICH WE HAVE ONLY HEARD FROM FARES), FARES HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY TIME/NEW YORK TO SET UP MEETING WITH ARAFAT IN DAMASCUS JAN. 21, EITHER AT TIME, INC., RECEPTION FOR GROUP OR AT TIME DINNER. TO BOTH EVENTS TIME, INC., PLANS INVITE SARG OFFICIALS, POSSIBLY SOME SYRIAN BUSINESSMEN WHO WOULD BE COUNTERPART TYPES OF US EXECUTIVES ON TOUR, AND SELECTED MEMBER OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS INCLUDING AMBASSADOR AND SOME MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF.

4. WE HAVE NO WAY OF CHECKING ON FARES' REPORT THAT TIME/BEIRUT IS PUSHING FOR GROUP TO MEET WITH ARAFAT, OR WHETHER INDEED GROUP ON ITS OWN IS SEEKING SUCH A MEETING. IF MEETING WITH ARAFAT HELD HERE, WE WOULD RECOMMEND SUCH MEETING NOT BE DURING PUBLIC OCCASION SUCH AS TIME, INC., RECEPTION OR DINNER. UNDER CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS, AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF COULD NOT ATTEND SUCH FUNCTION WITH FORE-

KNOWLEDGE OF ARAFAT'S PRESENCE. DAMASCUS SCHEDULE JAN 21 OR 21/22 HAS AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON/BRIEFING FOR GROUP ENDING AT 1500 FOLLOWED BY 1500 TO 1700 SIGHTSEEING AND 1700 TO 1800 SHOPPING. GROUP THEREFORE WOULD HAVE TIME FOR MEETING WITH ARAFAT IF SO DESIRED BY TIME ORGANIZERS AND GROUP PRIOR TO 1800 TO 2000 RECEPTION AND DINNER FOLLOWING RECEPTION.

5. FARES AND STEWART OBVIOUSLY ARE WORKING HARD TO MAKE VISIT TO DAMASCUS A SUCCESS AND WE ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGING THEM TO CONTINUE SUCH EFFORTS AS WE CONVINCED THIS TOP-NOTCH GROUP WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED BY SARG. IT IS JUST THE TYPE OF CONTACT WHICH OFFICIALS AT HIGHEST LEVELS HERE CONTINUE TO REQUEST THIS EMBASSY TO PROMOTE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT SOUND OUT "NEWSTOUR" ORGANIZERS DIRECTLY RE GROUP'S REPORTED INTEREST IN SETTING UP MEETING WITH ARAFAT. IF REPORT IS TRUE, THEN WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PASSING RECOMMENDATION THAT MEETING WITH ARAFAT BE JUST BETWEEN VISITORS AND ARAFAT AS PER PARA 4.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC03089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750001-0083
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974123/aaaaabtp.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 DAMASCUS 3049
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TIME MIDEAST "NEWSTOUR" FOR BUSINESS LEADERS-- POSSIBLE ARAFAT MEETING
TAGS: BTRA, OVIP, XF, US, TIME
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005